

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

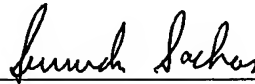
By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted herein.

Further, claims 1-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 16-31 are presented for examination. New claims 16-31 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. New claims 16-31 are also not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-15.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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